

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01303 131056Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /100 W  
-----095294 140357Z /16

R 131030Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9514  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1303

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MOPS, SS MO, MR, FR  
SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH : MAY 3-4 BATTLE

1. FRENCH EMBASSY DESCRIBED TO US MAY 3-4 CLASH  
BETWEEN 50-VEHICLE POLISARIO COLUMN ON THE ONE HAND AND MAU-  
RITANIAN AND MOROCCAN GROUND FORCES AND FRENCH JAGUAR AIRCRAFT  
ON THE OTHER. MAURITANIAN FORCES INITIALLY ATTACKED POLISARIO  
NOT FAR FROM ZOUERATE MAY 3 AND CALLED IN FIRST JAGUAR STRIKE  
AT DUSK THAT DAY. POLISARIO RETREATED AND UNDERWENT SECOND  
MAURITANIAN AND JAGUAR ATTACK MAY 4. FINAL CLASH WITH  
MOROCCAN FORCES TOOK PLACE NEAR OUM DREIGA.

2. FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE NOTED THAT POLISARIO LOST ROUGHLY  
25 LANDROVERS DURING FIGHTING AND ADDED THAT POLISARIO'S  
CONSIDERABLE SKILL IN MANEUVERING HAD SAVED IT FROM EVEN  
HEAVIER LOSSES. JAGUAR ATTACK, SOURCE SAID, WAS FIRST  
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SINCE TWO STRIKES LAST DECEMBER. SOURCE INDICATED THT  
JAGUARS STILL HAD DIFFICULTIES IN IMPEDING NIGHTTIME MOVE-  
MENT OF POLISARIO COLUMNS BUT IMPLIED THAT JAGUARS' CAPA-  
BILITIES IN THIS DOMAIN WOULD BE ENHANCED IN FUTURE.

3. WESTERN DIPLOMAT WHO VISITED NOUADHIBOU MAY 10-12  
TOLD US THAT ONE OF JAGUARS PARTICIPATING IN ATTACKS ON

POLISARIO COLUMN WAS DAMAGED IN FIGHTING AND FORCED TO  
PUT DOWN IN NOUADHIBOU. WESTERNERS RESIDENT IN NOUADHIBOU  
TOLD DIPLOMAT THAT JAGUAR HAD BEEN FLYING VERY CLOSE TO  
GROUND AND HAD LOST AN ENGINE AFTER BEING HIT BY DEBRIS FROM  
EXPLODING POLSIARIO LAND ROVER. FRENCH TRANSVAL VISITED  
NOUADHIBOU SHORTLY AFTER JAGUAR LANDED AND MAY HAVE PER-  
FORMED REPAIRS. JAGUAR WAS GONE FROM NOUADHIBOU BY  
MAY 7.

KRYZA

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978NOUAKC01303  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780204-0474  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** bd19969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2698879  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SAHARA WATCH : MAY 3-4 BATTLE  
**TAGS:** MOPS, SS, MO, MR, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/bd19969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014